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Dialogue on the Growing Array of Vulnerability Assessment Frameworks

**International Development and Domestic VA's:
Towards Sharing Best Practices and Experiences**



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Outline

- ❑ Domestic vs. International Development VA's:
 - ❑ Common Goals and Approaches
 - ❑ Contextual and Methodological Differences
- ❑ Example of VAs for International Development
- ❑ Discussion





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Large and Growing Array of VA Frameworks



- ☐ Sector
- ☐ Decision type
- ☐ Detail
- ☐ Data availability
- ☐ Bottom-up/top-down
- ☐ Funding level



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Common Fundamental Goals of International Development and Domestic VAs

- ☐ Raise awareness amongst key stakeholders
- ☐ Determine how climate may affect an existing/planned strategy or program
- ☐ Identify critical, priority, and differentiated vulnerabilities
- ☐ Identify areas or sectors where vulnerability is particularly consequential, and adaptation actions are most needed
- ☐ Inform the design of adaptation actions to reduce vulnerability



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Commonalities in Approach and Planning

- ☐ Role of participatory approaches and stakeholder buy-in
- ☐ Need to identify the right level of detail, scope, target audience at the outset
- ☐ Need to communicate findings appropriately





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How do they differ?

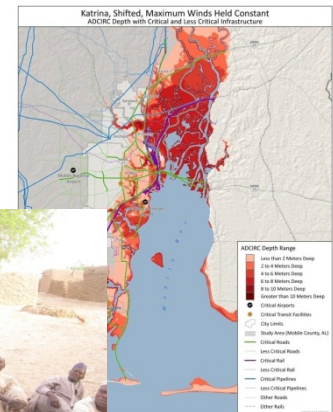
- ❑ Context matters! Developing countries tend to have significant differences in **vulnerability**, including...
 - ❑ Higher level of current exposure and sensitivity
 - ❑ Lower level of adaptive capacity, including wealth, services, training, etc.
 - ❑ More differentiation in social vulnerability relative to developed countries
 - ❑ Large rural populations, disconnected from services
 - ❑ At the same time, rapid urbanization
 - ❑ Importance of community safety nets
 - ❑ More dependence (economic, individual) upon natural resources



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How do they differ?

- ❑ Context matters! Developing countries tend to have significant differences in **ability to conduct vulnerability assessments**, including...
 - ❑ Less climate and non-climate data for characterizing vulnerability vs. freely accessible, high resolution data
 - ❑ Greater reliance on less data intensive methods; proxies
 - ❑ Less technical training; less higher education
 - ❑ Greater dependence on foreign funding





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How do they differ?

- ❑ Context matters! Developing countries tend to have significant differences in **action orientation**, including...
 - ❑ Perception (and reality) of immediate threat vs. view of distant threat
 - ❑ More urgency to take action vs. to protect embedded interests
 - ❑ Greater focus on adaptation, given smaller role in cause of climate change
 - ❑ Greater focus on communities, saving lives, securing livelihoods and basic needs vs. securing assets
 - ❑ High focus on low cost/low tech solutions
 - ❑ Greater dependence on donor support



Kazakhstan, Source: USAID



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Examples of Vulnerability Assessment Frameworks for International Development

- ❑ Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) Handbook
 - CARE
- ❑ WETwin Vulnerability Assessment Process
 - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- ❑ USAID VA Guidance
 - In progress...





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Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) Handbook

- ❑ Developed by CARE to delineate socio-economic aspects of vulnerability to climate change
- ❑ Objectives
 - Analyze vulnerability & adaptive capacity at community level through a combination of community knowledge and scientific data
- ❑ Distinctive features include:
 - ❑ Community-Based Adaptation (CBA), including consideration of: (a) climate-resilient livelihoods strategies; (b) disaster risk reduction strategies; (c) capacity development; (d) advocacy and social mobilization
 - ❑ Reliance on participatory tools (e.g., hazard mapping; seasonal calendars; historical timelines; etc.)



EVENTS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
DRY SEASON												
GARDENING												
Land Preparation												
Birthing & Plastering of houses												
Trading												
Festivals (Samajhi)												
Funerals												
Wet season / Early Rains												
Planting												
Harvesting and storage												
FUEL WOOD collection												
Local industrial activities (Shrubbery, bark, wood, etc.)												



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Project of Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Andes (PRAA) – CARE

❑ Objective of PRAA

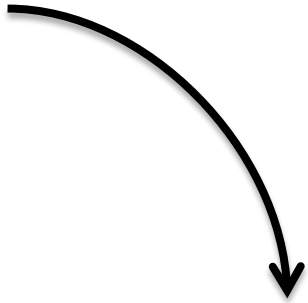
- Strengthen resilience of local ecosystems and economies from impacts caused by rapid glacier retreat in the tropical Andes
- PRAA Pilot Areas in Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador
- Micro-river basin of Papallacta, Ecuador
 - 500 families
 - Limited investment in education and health
 - Low level of social organization
 - No sewer system – each household takes care of its own wastewater





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CVCA Process

- ❑ Brought together local knowledge and scientific data
 - ❑ Evaluated and framed individual tools within CVCA Handbook with respect to creating community plans
- 
- ❑ Set of context-specific tools for developing and implementing community's Management and Action Plan



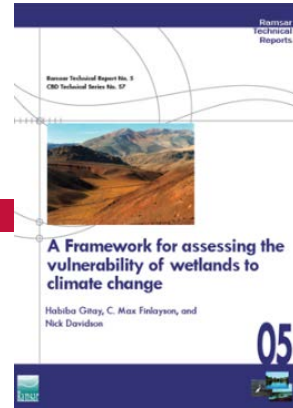
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Results

- ❑ Established a qualitative baseline
- ❑ Identified community-based adaptation components/strategies not considered within original project designs to improve food security
- ❑ Farmers, including illiterate women, learning to use natural resources and agroforestry techniques to adapt to unpredictable, intense, and changing moisture, wind, and temperature conditions



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A Framework for Assessing the Vulnerability of Wetlands to Climate Change (Gitay et al.)

The framework has the following elements:

- ☐ Establishing present status and recent trends: description of the wetland (biophysical and social), the present and recent pressures and conditions
- ☐ Determining the wetland's sensitivity and adaptive capacity to multiple pressures
- ☐ Developing responses: determining approaches to achieve the desired outcomes
- ☐ Monitoring and adaptive management: determining the necessary steps to ensure the path to the desired outcomes.



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WETwin Vulnerability Assessment Process in the Inner Niger Delta, Mali

□ Context

- Food production within Inner Niger Delta linked to intensity of seasonal inundation of its floodplain
- Changing river flows is reducing flood intensity and threatens agriculture in Delta for 1,000,000 people
- Little quantitative data for area





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WETwin Process

- ❑ Apply simulations and expert judgment to assess impacts on different aspects of the system under different management options
- ❑ Apply downscaled global change scenarios to current system conditions
- ❑ Apply range of management options to scenarios
- ❑ Determine adaptive capacity of system by comparing the system state with and without the application of each management option



Results

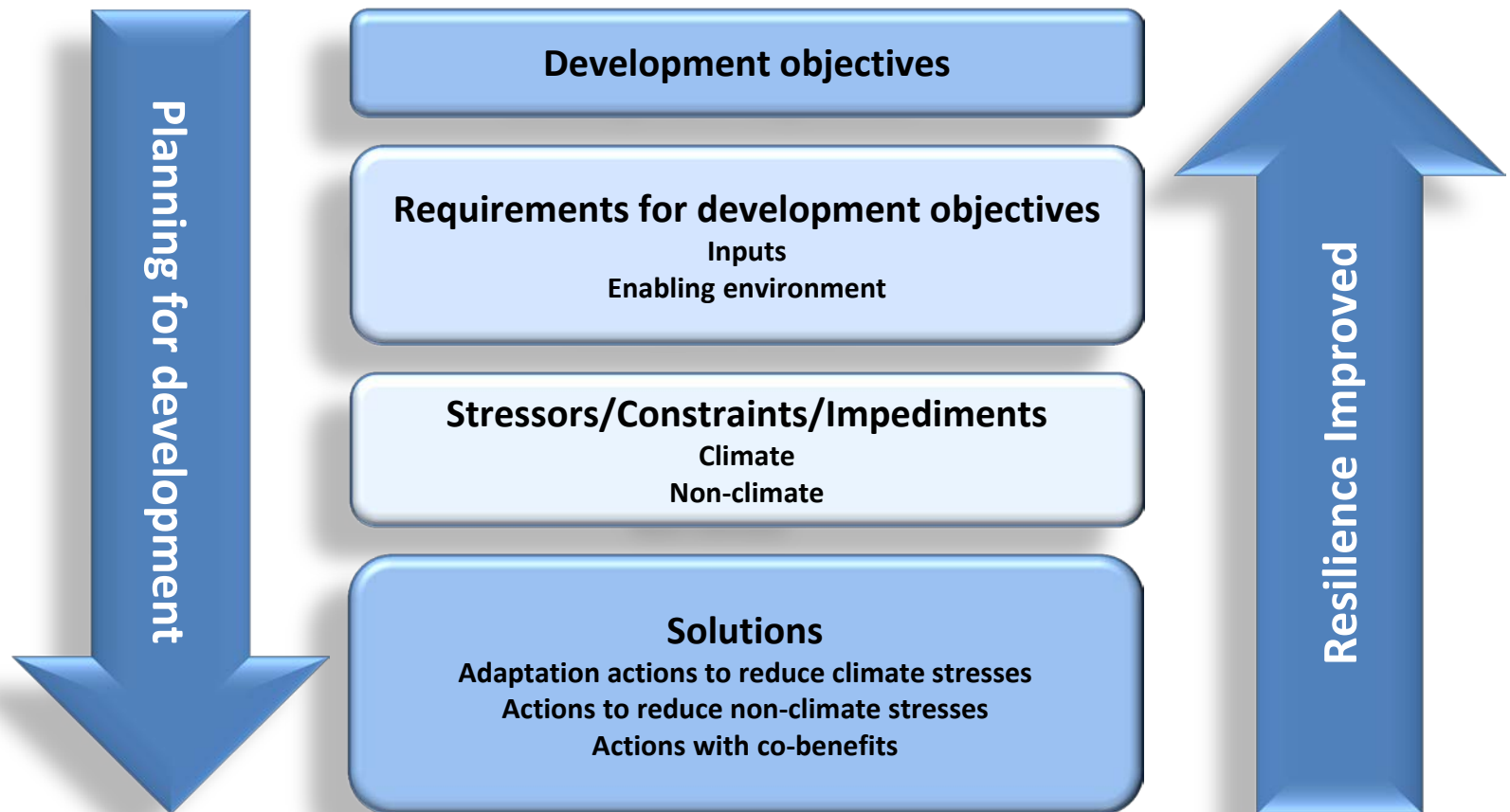
- ❑ Because of seasonal differences in river flow, vulnerability was assessed separately for wet and dry seasons

Management option	Season	Impact on:		
		Human health & water related disease	Ecosystem functions	Water retention & purification
Maximise Irrigation	Wet	0	-	0
	Dry	--	--	-
Maximise energy production	Wet	--	-	-
	Dry	--	+ -	+
Maintain minimum flows	Wet	0	0	0
	Dry	--	++ --	++



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USAID Climate Change Resilient Development *Mainstreaming Approach*





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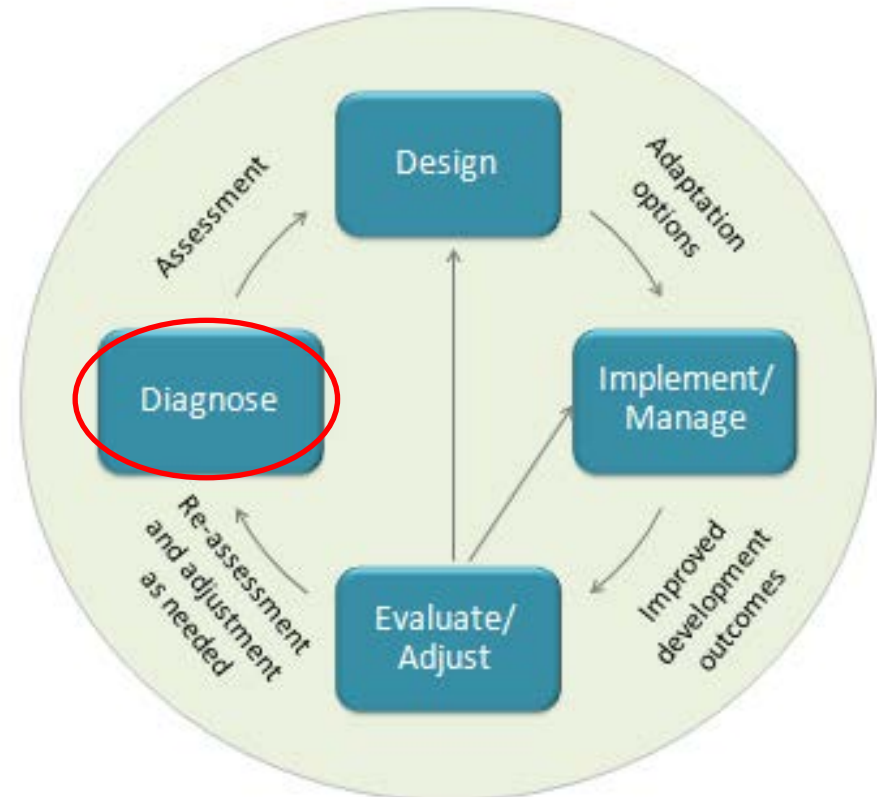


VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT: AN
ANNEX TO THE USAID CLIMATE
RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK

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USAID/CCRD *Vulnerability Assessment Guidance*

- ❑ Provides critical input into the *Diagnose* stage of USAID's Climate Resilient Development framework
 - Framed by development goal
 - Targeted given identified needs, time and resource constraints
 - Locally owned
 - Considers critical climate and non-climate stressors
 - Applicable across scales





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USAID/CCRD Vulnerability Assessment Process

1. *Preparing for a successful assessment*
 - What is the scope and objective of the assessment?
2. *Assessing exposure*
 - Which inputs and conditions are exposed to climate and non-climate stresses? Where and when are they exposed?
3. *Assessing sensitivity*
 - Which systems are sensitive to climate and non-climate stresses, and why?
4. *Assessing adaptive capacity*
 - What abilities do people or ecosystems have to withstand or cope with climate and non-climate stresses?
5. *Rolling up the results to understand vulnerability*
 - Integrating and applying the understanding of exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity



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Thanks!